

CLINICAL ROENTGENOLOGY—Volume IV—The Digestive Tract, the Gall Bladder, Liver and Pancreas, the Excretory Tract and Special Studies Emphasizing Differential Considerations—Alfred A. de Lorimier, M.D., Radiologist, St. Francis Memorial Hospital, San Francisco; Henry G. Moehring, M.D., Radiologist, Duluth Clinic, Duluth, Minnesota; and John R. Hannan, M.D., Radiologist, Cleveland, Ohio. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1956. 676 pages, \$24.50.

The Fourth Volume of this excellent series covers not only the subjects mentioned in the title, but also obstetrical roentgenology.

As in the previous volumes, the reproductions of roentgenograms are in the same tone as the originals, and labeling is satisfactory. More important, every effort has been made to index the subjects in such a way that differential diagnosis is made more simple. Further helps are the addition of clinical and laboratory findings which complete the pictures of the disease processes under discussion.

It is a book which should be useful not only to radiologists, but to any doctors whose interest might lie in the fields which it encompasses.

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NEW GOULD MEDICAL DICTIONARY—Second Edition—Edited by Norman L. Hoerr, M.D., Arthur Osol, Ph.D., with 88 contributors. The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1956. 1463 pages, \$11.50.

The editors of this revised edition of what has become a classic work in its class have modernized the book throughout with 12,000 new definitions and 8,000 changes. These are predominantly in the areas of chest surgery, psychiatry, cancer, definitions on blood groups, antiarthritic compounds, veterinary medicine, dentistry, nuclear science and aviation medicine. At present this book contains more terms from today's live medical language than in any other dictionary. Moreover, in addition there is a special section of illustrations, and a section of important tables, which are helpful features, yet retain the optimum size for a book of this type. The list of distinguished specialist contributors make this a most authoritative text which is recommended to student and practitioner.

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THE YEAR BOOK OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY—1956-1957—J. P. Greenhill, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S. (Honorary), Professor of Gynecology, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine, Editor. The Year Book Publishers, Incorporated, 200 East Illinois St., Chicago, 1956. 592 pages, 82 illustrations, \$6.75.

The 1956-1957 Yearbook of Obstetrics and Gynecology follows the familiar pattern of its previous editions. The editor has done an excellent job in culling through the world literature and, in a clear and concise manner, compressing the most interesting and informative material into a single 592 page volume. The subject matter is arranged in an orderly fashion beginning with the earliest fertilized ovum reported during the year and progressing through the various phases of obstetrics, gynecology and related clinical conditions.

The obstetrical portion includes sections on pregnancy tests, abortion, cardiac disease and cardiac surgery in pregnancy, diabetes and the prediabetic syndrome of pregnancy, toxemias, management of labor including anesthesia, and bleeding complications of pregnancy. This is followed by an orderly review of gynecological literature. Interspersed at frequent intervals in both sections the editor has added comments from other pertinent articles related to those immediately preceding.

This yearbook should find a useful place in the library of anyone interested in obstetrics and gynecology. It will prove most helpful to the busy and sometimes isolated practitioner who doesn't have time or recourse to the many jour-

nals reviewed. Its greatest usefulness will be for those readers interested in a ready reference guide to the original papers.

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PELVIMETRY—Herbert Thoms, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yale University School of Medicine. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York 16, N. Y., 1956. 120 pages, \$5.00.

"The purpose of this book is to place before practitioners of obstetrics a practical description of variations and abnormalities of the bony pelvis in relation to labor and to describe certain diagnostic procedures by which pelvic morphology and pelvic capacity can be ascertained." The book achieves its purpose very well. The author has devoted many years to the study of the human pelvis and is well renowned for having developed a method of x-ray pelvimetry. Dr. Thoms strongly espouses routine x-ray pelvimetry for all primigravid women, feeling that the knowledge so gained has resulted in a lessened incidence of trial labor, a lowered incidence of difficult and traumatic forceps operations, a diminution in the fetal mortality in primigravids with breech presentations, and a decrease in the incidence of cesarean section in cases of unengaged head in primigravid women where palpatory examination alone suggested disproportion.

The variations in the shape of the pelvic inlet revealed by routine x-ray pelvimetry over a twenty-five year period are described. The variations are related to developmental factors (to which a whole interesting chapter is devoted), to the hormonal changes occurring at puberty, and to nutrition. Dr. Thoms suggests that the slightly flattened oval inlet, which has been considered characteristic of the female, may actually be due to abnormal influences (often nutritional). He shows that well-nourished young women, as represented by student nurses, have a much higher incidence of pelves of the dolichopellic type (oval, with the anteroposterior diameter of the inlet exceeding the greatest transverse) than do women applying for clinic maternity care in New Haven.

The inaccuracy of palpatory measurements, except for the determination of the anteroposterior and the transverse diameters of the outlet is remarked. The important pelvic dimensions and the methods for their determination are described. It is emphasized that the most significant information to be determined relates to pelvic capacity. If the diameters are large enough, the fetus will pass through a pelvis of almost any shape.

Pelvic midplane contraction is described, and said to be present in about sixteen per cent of the cases. When the distance between the ischial spines is less than 10 cm., Dr. Thoms regards it as "contracted." If midplane contraction is combined with shortening of the anteroposterior diameter of the outlet, operative delivery must be anticipated in over half the cases.

A short chapter deals with pelvic outlet contraction.

Pelvic roentgenometry as developed by Dr. Thoms is described in some detail. Emphasis is placed upon the lateral film.

Several chapters are devoted to pelvic abnormalities caused by diseases, the most notable being the rachitic and osteomalacic pelves. Included are the assimilation pelvis, spondylolisthetic, Naegle, kyphotic, scoliotic and coxalgi pelves.

This is a very excellent little volume of some 115 pages written by one of the outstanding authorities on the human pelvis. Not all physicians practicing obstetrics will agree that x-ray pelvimetry is indicated in every primigravid woman. Other than this there can be no quarrel whatever with the information which Dr. Thoms so concisely puts before us.